

Question:

I'm having an intermittent problem with my Jeep and would appreciate suggestions. '05 LJ with 4.0 and 6 speed manual transmission

From time to time, when I try to start my Jeep the starter will not crank. It seems to happen most often when the Jeep is warm but has happened first thing in the morning.

I have replaced the battery and battery cables, replaced the starter and replaced the starter relay in the fuse box.

When I the engine won't crank, if I depress the clutch several times and "monkey" with the key it cranks.

I suspect either the clutch neutral position switch or the starter switch activated by the key are the problem but don't know which.

Any suggestions on how to pin down the problem? Both are expensive to repair/replace so I'd like to only replace the problem part.

Answer:

Thanks to everyone who offered suggestions for my starter problem.

Since I have eliminated the Battery, Starter, Ravelco and probably the relay as the cause, I think I have it narrowed down to either the Clutch switch or possibly the ignition/starter switch.

My Jeep is a Late '05 and Jeep eliminated the Clutch Override position wiring in the fuze/relay box in late '05 and '06s. (At least mine has no socket or wiring even though there is a position designation stenciled inside the box.) I understand that putting the transfer case in 4 low overrides the clutch neutral switch so the next time the intermittent starting problem happens I'll narrow down the problem by putting the transfer case in 4 low to see if the starter will crank. If it cranks then probably the problem is the clutch switch. Unfortunately the switch isn't serviceable without replacing the clutch master cylinder assy. (If that is the problem I'll probably just wire around that switch.)

There is also a possibly a problem with the contacts for the clutch relay so putting the transfer case in 4 low and having the starter crank should eliminate the clutch switch as the problem.

Since my cranking problem is frequent but intermittent, it's kind of tough to pin down the cause or prove that it is fixed, particularly since it may be a heat related problem.

Unrelated to the starting problem I am still working on my Rubicon locker problem. I replaced the rear locker air pump that wasn't working but still have a rear locker problem.

I'm trying to get ready to go to Moab in few weeks so I hope to get everything back to normal before that.